

6 January 1978

Memorandum for NIO/Political Economy

From :

25X1

Subject: Topic on Soviet Expertise

1. Attached is your outline. Dr. Bowie wants to expand the coverage to focus more on all area studies. Therefore I have not passed the outline to the DCI for review.

2. In addition I have two suggestions.

- a. The briefing would be helped by a short review of what we are doing on our own book, e.g., NFAC area specialist programs and attempts to re-establish links with academic world.
- b. The proposal of Paragraph VI strikes me as too detailed.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

NFAC No. 0023-78
4 January 1978

National Intelligence Officers

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

25X1

FROM

: Assistant to the National Intelligence Officer
for Political Economy

SUBJECT

: [REDACTED] Briefing Topic on the State
of Soviet Studies in the US

1. Attached is the briefing outline on "The Decay of US
Research on the USSR: Need to Explore Remedial Action" that
[REDACTED] drafted.

2. I believe the subject is now ready for Bob Bowie's re-
view. If you agree, will you please handle from here on. [REDACTED]
will return on 9 January.

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[REDACTED]

The Decay of US Research on the USSR:

Need to Explore Remedial Action

I. Dimensions of the Problem

- Growing US need and opportunities for research on our principal adversary are encountering only flagging student interest, shrinking graduate programs, declining language study.
- Capability created by University training programs of the 1950s not being regenerated.
 - Young PhDs shunning the field: find that large incremental investment in language and area studies not justified by meager employment prospects.
 - Key Universities (Harvard, Columbia, Michigan, Berkeley, Stanford) cutting back sharply on Soviet studies.
 - Existing research capabilities at Universities under utilized, because of sharply diminished government support. Specialists not being replaced as they leave field or retire.
 - Fields most neglected: economics, anthropology, law, social science, industrial technology, military role in society.
- At present trends, existing US capabilities will virtually disappear within ten years.

II. Part of the General Problem of Foreign Area Research

- Decline of Soviet studies symptomatic of malaise of foreign area research generally. Foundation support dried up, federal funding (NDEA, contract funds, Fulbright-Hays) sharply reduced.
- Attack on problem eventually must be broad and sustained, though funding needs are modest.
- Soviet problem, however, is of most immediate salience to the National Security Community, and needs most urgent attention.

III. National Security and Intelligence Community Concerns

- While much current analysis is done within government, we need broad knowledge base to draw on.
- Growing treasure of information not being exploited.
- Inadequate long-term research by independent scholars.
- Inadequate development of new talent.
- Basic needs are for:
 - Sustained funding
 - Institutional support and new institution creation.
 - Incentives for relevant research

IV. Divergent Interests -- Poor Communications

- Main obstacles to remedial action are divergences of interest among producers and consumers of research, and inadequate communication between them.

-- Some of the divergent interests are:

- Individual scholars want autonomy to do the research they find satisfying.
- Research institutes want institutional subsidies without strings.
- Universities are at best ambivalent about, at worst reject, any federal funding, especially sensitive about CIA and (to lesser extent) Defense.
- Even within Executive Branch, there are differences between the National Security Community (State-Defense-CIA) and the Domestic Science-Education Establishment (NSF, HEW, Commerce, etc.) as to kinds and forms of research that should be encouraged.

-- Poor communication stems from:

- Academic individuality, rivalry, jealousy--low propensity to cooperate.
- Dearth of acknowledged academic leadership.
- Lack of Executive Branch initiative, coordination, or organizing instrument.

V. Initiatives Underway

- Former Dep. SecDef. Ellsworth funding Harvard Russian Research Center review of problem.
- Harvard proposal for DOD funding of academic "Council" to channel funds to scholars and institutes for research

- Proposal to establish federally funded "Institute for Study of Soviet Economy and Society."
- Proposals to subsidize "external research" on USSR and support language training.
- Efforts by Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies to sensitize the Congress to the issue.

-- None of these efforts has as yet borne fruit.

VI. Essential Next Step

- Critical need is for organized Executive Branch approach to problem.
- First task is creation of Interagency Working Group, composed of NSC, State, Defense and DCI to integrate and develop Executive Branch action proposals and deal coherently with academic and research communities and to enlist Congressional support.
- DCI role is that of initiator and active participant, not that of titular leader.
- Titular leadership is best vested in Marshall Shulman-George Vest, USSR Coordinating Committee, but Interagency Group should have own permanent Executive Secretary.
- To be taken seriously, Working Group needs explicit Presidential endorsement.